

COMMONWEALTH DEBT MANAGEMENT

Management

The Office of Financial Management ("OFM"), Finance and Administration Cabinet has central responsibility for the issuance, management, review and approval of all debt issued by the Commonwealth and its agencies. Table I lists state agencies which are active issuing entities. OFM is also responsible for the coordination and monitoring of cash needs relative to debt activity, debt service payments and the development of a comprehensive long-term debt plan. The Office of Financial Management serves as primary staff to the State Property and Buildings Commission, the Kentucky Asset/Liability Commission, and the Kentucky Local Correctional Facilities Construction Authority.

Structure

The Commonwealth's indebtedness is classified as either appropriation supported debt or non-appropriation supported debt as displayed in Table II.

Appropriation supported debt carries the name of the Commonwealth and is either (i) a general obligation of the State, or (ii) a project revenue obligation of one of its debt issuing agencies created by the Kentucky General Assembly to finance various projects which is subject to state appropriation for all or a portion of the debt service on the bonds.

General obligation bonds pledge the full faith, credit and taxing power of the Commonwealth for the repayment of the debt. The Kentucky Constitution requires voter approval by general referendum prior to the issuance of general obligation bonds in amounts exceeding \$500,000. Kentucky has not issued general obligation bonds since 1966. The Commonwealth has no general obligation bonds outstanding.

Project revenue notes and bonds are issued by various debt issuing authorities of the Commonwealth. The revenues produced by the projects funded by the debt are pledged as security for repayment of the debt. Project revenues are not a direct obligation of the Commonwealth. Project revenues are, in some cases, derived partially or solely from biennial appropriations of the General Assembly. In other cases, the direct revenues generated from the project funded constitute the entire source of payment.

Non-appropriation or moral obligation debt carries the name of the Commonwealth for the benefit and convenience of other entities within the state. This type of indebtedness is a special obligation of the issuer, secured and payable solely from the sources pledged for the payment thereof and do not constitute a debt, liability, obligation or a pledge of the faith and credit of the Commonwealth. The General Assembly does not intend to appropriate any funds to fulfill the financial obligations represented by these types of indebtedness. In most circumstances, in the event of a shortfall the issuer covenants to request from the Governor and the General Assembly sufficient amounts to pay debt service. Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Governmental Agencies Program and certain Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation bond issues are no longer moral obligation debt and are non-appropriation supported debt.

Default Record

The Commonwealth has never defaulted in the payment of principal or interest on its general obligation indebtedness or its project revenue obligations.

**TABLE I
ACTIVE DEBT ISSUING ENTITIES**

ENTITY	STATUTORY AUTHORITY/ PURPOSE	DEBT LIMITATIONS	RATINGS*
State Property and Buildings Commission	KRS 56.450 Provide financing for capital construction projects and financing programs approved by the General Assembly.	Cannot incur debt without prior approval of projects and appropriation of debt service by General Assembly.	Aa3/A+/AA-
Kentucky Asset/Liability Commission	KRS 56.863 Provide interim financing of capital projects and cash flow borrowings to meet working capital needs of the state.	Cannot incur debt without prior approval of projects and appropriation of debt service by General Assembly, exclusive of cash flow borrowings within a fiscal year.	Varies
Turnpike Authority of Kentucky	KRS 175.410-175.990 Construct, maintain, repair, and operate Turnpike projects, resource recovery roads and economic development roads.	Cannot incur debt without prior approval of projects and appropriation of debt service by General Assembly.	Aa3/A+/AA-
The State Universities (consisting of nine)	KRS 56.495 Construct educational buildings and housing and dining facilities.	Cannot incur debt without prior approval of projects and appropriation of debt service by General Assembly.	Varies
Kentucky Housing Corporation	KRS 198A Make low interest mortgage loans and construction loans to increase the supply of housing for low and moderate income residents in the State.	Limited to \$ 2.5 billion of debt outstanding.	Aaa/AAA/NR
Kentucky Infrastructure Authority	KRS 224A Provide financial assistance to local governments for the construction or refinancing of infrastructure facilities and to provide loans to industries for construction of pollution control facilities.	Revolving Fund programs cannot incur debt without appropriation of debt service by the General Assembly. Without legislative approval, other programs are limited to debt outstanding of \$500 million.	Aa3/A+/AA-
Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation	KRS 164A Make guaranteed student loans to residents of the state to attend post-secondary institutions and to make loans to students attending post-secondary schools within the state.	Limited to \$5.0 billion of debt outstanding.	NR/AAA/AAA (Sr. Series) NR/A/A (Subord. Series)
School Facilities Construction Commission	KRS 157.611-157.665 Assist local school districts with the financing and construction of school buildings. Finance the construction of vocational education facilities.	Cannot incur debt without appropriation of debt service by General Assembly.	Aa3/AAA/NR
Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority	KRS 154 Issue industrial revenue bonds on behalf of industries, hospitals, and commercial enterprises in the state. Provide low interest loans to developing businesses. Provide financing and tax credits to manufacturing entities expanding or locating facilities in the state.	None.	Varies
Kentucky Local Correctional Facilities Construction Authority	KRS 441.605-441.695 Provide an alternative method of constructing, improving, repairing and financing local jails.	Limited to the level of debt service supported by court fees pledged as repayment for the bonds.	Aaa/AAA/NR (Insured)

*Ratings, where applicable, include Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch. Standard & Poor's rates the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority's moral obligation bonds AA. Certain State Property and Buildings Commission Agency Fund Revenue bonds may have ratings different from those identified above.